

**Tyson Wash Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund (WQARF) Site  
Community Advisory Board Meeting**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

Wednesday, April 5, 2006  
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
Quartzsite Community Center  
305 N. Plymouth Street  
Quartzsite, Arizona

OU #06-150

CAB members present: Cecil Loyet (Acting Chair), Audrey Berger, and Dale Schooley  
Alternates members present: Walter Akin, Bob Freedman, and Marilyn McFate

Members absent: Herman York, Billy Rhoades, Jean Winter and Jack Burris

ADEQ Staff in attendance: Chris Gamache (Project Manager) and Linda Mariner (Community Involvement Coordinator)

Members of the public present: Joe Glamock, Wes Huntley, Elsie Metcalf, Stanley Metcalf, Jerry Berger, and Bruce Swart

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The meeting began at 1:15 p.m.

The following matters were discussed, considered, and voted on at the meeting:

**1. Welcome & Introductions -**

Mr. Loyet opened the meeting. Introductions of Community Advisory Board (CAB) members, ADEQ staff, and members of the public were made.

**2. Acceptance or changes to the November 30, 2005 draft minutes -**

Mr. Loyet read the minutes and one typographical error was found. Mr. Akin moved and Mr. Schooley seconded that the minutes be accepted with the correction. The minutes were unanimously accepted.

**3. Update on Quarterly Groundwater Monitoring and Treatment System Activities -**

The Project Manager, Chris Gamache, presented a slide show that gave an update on the quarterly monitoring and sampling results for the December 2005 groundwater sampling, explained the performance and upgrades to the pump and treat system, and announced the completion of the feasibility study work plan.

Mr. Gamache demonstrated how the treatment system was working to pull the contaminated groundwater toward the system with the help of several maps showing groundwater direction and where the highest concentrations of PCE exist. A map showed where the groundwater still needed to be cleaned inside the outer line that represented the 5 parts per billion (ppb) aquifer water quality standard. He stated that since April 2003, a total of 3,076,418 gallons of groundwater has been treated by pumping out the contaminated groundwater, removing the PCE through granulated activated carbon, and injecting the treated water back into the aquifer. During this last quarter (from September through December of 2005) 1,666,931 gallons have been treated.

The CAB members asked the following questions:

Mr. Loyet asked how long a barrel of granulated activated carbon lasted. Mr. Gamache answered that it depended on the amounts of PCE and groundwater going through the carbon. On average one 55-gallon drum usually lasted about a year. And he added that the drums were just changed out last week.

Ms. Berger asked how often the filters were monitored. Mr. Gamache replied that they were checked quarterly (every three months).

Mr. Akin asked where the treated water was injected back into the ground. Mr. Gamache explained that there was an injection well on the southeast corner of Johnson Avenue and Cowell Street. Another injection well was located on the southern portion of the Welcome RV Park, but the majority of the treated water was sent back into the injection well on Johnson Avenue.

Mr. Gamache explained to the CAB that a minor upgrade to the treatment system was done because the holding tank had been leaking treated water recently. During the week of March 27, 2006, a new float switch was installed to prevent overflow from the holding tank. The holding tank was also inspected and cleaned. To control future leaks or other problems with the system, ADEQ has arranged to install a wireless remote telemetry system. System information will be accessible on the internet and allow ADEQ and its contractor to turn the system off from the Phoenix office when needed.

Mr. Gamache discussed the completion of the feasibility study work plan that was now available for review by the Board and general public. He stated that a copy of this work plan will be placed in the Quartzsite Library right after the meeting. The work plan outlined the work to be done for the feasibility study (FS) report. The FS report will be broken down into three sections: 1) remedial alternatives screening, 2) remedial alternative evaluation, and 3) the final recommendations in the report. The remedial alternatives screening involves studying two more treatment options of the site. The remedial alternative evaluation then compares the current treatment system to the other two alternatives to measure cost effectiveness and efficiency to make a recommendation for final remediation in the final report. The feasibility report will use the information

obtained in the remedial investigation report and the remedial objectives report and should be completed in the next fiscal year. The ultimate goal is to bring the groundwater back to drinking water quality.

Ms. Metcalf asked why we should be concerned about cleaning the groundwater if everyone is now drinking city water that is not pumped from the contaminated area. Mr. Gamache responded that due to numerous private groundwater wells in the area, and uncertainty of construction and use of those wells, treatment is needed to contain any further migration of contamination.

Mr. Huntley asked how long the pump and treat system has been working and if it had proven to be effective. Mr. Gamache stated that the treatment system has been operating since April 2003. The system had been shown to be very effective in decreasing the contamination in the plume. The last sampling event showed that the PCE concentration was measured around 15 µg/L for the Welcome RV Park domestic well compared to the original samples of over 100 µg/L. There was even a small finger of clean water that has now appeared in the project area from the treatment process.

Mr. Huntley asked if the area of higher concentration on the map was the lowest part of the aquifer. Mr. Gamache stated that it represented the pollution plume that has shrunk over time, but it was not the lowest part of the aquifer. It only illustrates where ADEQ's treatment system was pulling the contamination out of the ground.

Mr. Schooley asked what the original PCE sampling results of the Welcome RV Park domestic well were, and Mr. Gamache thought it was about 200 µg/L. Mr. Akin asked how deep the extraction wells were. Mr. Gamache responded that the extraction wells are 70 ft. deep to the bottom of the aquifer.

Mr. Metcalf said his well was put in 1927. It supplied the water for the whole community at Four Corners at that time. He still considered it to be a valuable well needed for fire hazards. He said that ADEQ had pumped that well dry, and he has asked ADEQ to get the water back. Mr. Gamache interrupted Mr. Metcalf's comments by reminding him that Arizona Open Meeting Law needed to be followed and Mr. Metcalf would have an opportunity to speak during the call to the public.

Mr. Loyet asked if someone had a drinking water well that was not in the contaminated area whether it would be fit for drinking. Mr. Gamache answered that it would be fit for drinking if there was no other contamination found.

#### **4. Charter Membership Change Discussion -**

The CAB discussed Ms. Mariner's suggestion to take out the fixed number of CAB membership in the currently approved charter to allow some flexibility for the future. Ms. Berger made a motion to accept that change in the charter to allow the quorum to reflect whatever official membership exists at each meeting. Mr. Akin seconded the motion and the Board approved the new change in the charter. Ms. Mariner will change the charter under section IV. CAB Structure subsection A. to read: "The CAB shall be chaired by one of the CAB members and shall have no more than 15 members with a quorum being a majority of existing members at the time of the meeting".

Ms. Berger then made a motion to accept the entire charter with the new change and the changes that were made at the last meeting. Ms. McFate seconded the motion, and the Board voted to approve it. Ms. Mariner will make the approved changes and have it ready for Mr. York's signature by the next meeting.

**5. Discussion and Voting on CAB Membership -**

Ms. Mariner pointed out that the CAB currently has seven board members even though two have not attended for some time. The board discussed how to handle the absence of these board members. Mr. Akin made a motion to have a letter drafted by Ms. Mariner to be sent to the two absentee members giving them the option to continue as CAB members or resign. Ms. Berger seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved it. Ms. Mariner will draft the letter for Mr. York's approval and signature.

**6. Call to the Public –**

Mr. Metcalf, owner of the Welcome RV Park, addressed the CAB with his concerns regarding his problems having the treatment system on his property. He felt that the worry in dealing with all the problems connected with the treatment system resulted in his losing his health and ending up in the hospital. Mr. Metcalf has a list of 16 "violations" that he felt ADEQ was responsible. They included the following:

- He wanted the Board to understand that due to a mistake in the electrical work for the system, ADEQ had to redo the wiring across his property, and he was not satisfied yet with the result.
- In doing the installation for that wiring, they apparently lost the keys to his gate and proceeded to cut the chain on his fence which was left open until his neighbor contacted him.
- During remedial work on his property, the foot of a backhoe cut through the top of his septic tank. He agreed to have a steel plate built over the top of that as a solution instead of a new septic tank.
- Don Richey authorized a compound be built around the system with a tarp over the compound. The tarp came lose in a storm and broke off one of Mr. Metcalf customer's mirrors on his motor home. He had to make it right with this customer. ADEQ then removed the tarp over the compound completely.
- The summer heat broke a pipe on the bottom of the treatment tank and water ran down Washington Street and Cowell Street while he was gone.
- A scope was inserted down his well that required taking the top off of his pump house. He told the contractor that he wanted it replaced by PVC pipe. The wrong type of pipe was put back in, and the pipe broke causing water to spurt out of the pump house. His wife's washing machine was drowned in all the water. He had to fix his own well, but he expressed his appreciation that ADEQ paid for a new washing machine.

Mr. Metcalf said that he had a total of 16 different situations where ADEQ was in violation, but that he was 100% in favor of getting the contamination cleaned up. However, it had caused him nothing but heartache and trouble. He was not against the cleanup, but the way it had been conducted on his property. Mr. Metcalf also said Mr. Gamache yelled at him over the phone saying that he needed to compromise or the electricity to the treatment system would be shut off.

Mr. Loyet asked what all these problems had to do with the CAB's role to advise ADEQ on the contamination clean up. Mr. Metcalf explained that the maintenance problems needed to be addressed. Mr. Loyet asked if he had made a court appeal regarding these problems. Mr. Metcalf said no, that as an experienced business and land owner in Washington State and Arizona, he believed in working things out himself until it got to the point where he had to refer it to a higher source. He stated that he had bought his property 22 years ago, and he felt that he had never been treated this way before as a property owner. He told the CAB that if they were in his place, they would feel the same way.

Mr. Loyet did not dispute his problems, but stated that the goal of the CAB was to discuss the proper cleaning up of the site. Mr. Loyet mentioned that it appeared that the cleanup might have created problems that affected Mr. Metcalf's legal rights. Mr. Metcalf denied making any reference to legal threats despite saying at the beginning of his statement that he was going to contact his attorney. Mr. Schooley said that it sounded like his problems were with the contractor. Mr. Metcalf declined to say any more except to reiterate that he was definitely in favor of cleaning up the contamination, but he didn't agree with the way it was being implemented. He said that he had tried to always follow his father's advice: "Son, go to the horse's face instead of the horse's rear."

**8. Future meeting plans -**

Wednesday, September 13, 2006 was set as the date for the next CAB meeting. This tentative date was passed by the board and agenda items discussed for the next meeting included: 1) Signing of the CAB revised charter, and 2) Update on quarterly monitoring and treatment system activities.

Mr. Schooley moved that the meeting be adjourned, and Mr. Akin seconded it at 2:18 p.m.